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ABSTRACT

This document describes a study undertaken by Florida community colleges to analyze student reading rates, which currently vary by ethnicity. To assess this concept, median scores for students who failed the College Placement Test (CPT) were compared between different ethic backgrounds across all Florida community colleges. All areas of the CPT were examined (math, reading, and writing). It was hypothesized that a large variation in scores would contribute to unequal exit rates of different ethnic groups. For reading and writing, whites were found to obtain the highest median scores (61 and 65, respectively), with Hispanics (57 and 61) and American Indians (56 and 61) both coming in second. Blacks (53 and 57) fell third in the list and Asians (50 and 53) scored lowest in these two areas. The scores for math were quite different. Asians (32) came out on top, followed by Hispanics (31), then whites, blacks and American Indians (all 29). Differences in CPT scores provide some reasons as to why reading rates may be so different. Other factors that should be considered include student employment, family obligations, financial aid, and full- or part-time status. (CJW)

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ED 452 939

FLORIDA
STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

AVERAGE SCORES FOR 1996-97 FTIC STUDENTS FAILING THE CPT BY ETHNICITY

Data Trend 9

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AVERAGE SCORES FOR 1996-97 FTIC STUDENTS FAILING THE CPT BY ETHNICITY

Introduction

Measure 4 Part 1 of the Florida Community College Accountability process provides information on the success of students who enroll in remedial courses. The display shows the number of first time in college degree seeking students who took an entrance exam during the fall term of a given year. Of those students, the report then shows the number and percent who failed some portion of an entry level placement test. A second portion of the report displays how many of the students needing remediation in a given area enrolled in a college preparatory course. The last section of the display indicates the number and percentage of those who passed the highest level college preparatory course for that area at the particular community college within a two year period. This last section is also known as the exit rate from college prep for the various groups (SBCC, 1997). The information in this display is provided for both the full cohort and by major ethnic group for each area of placement testing - reading, writing and mathematics.

Each of the twenty-eight public community colleges in Florida is required to submit an annual Equity Update to the Division of Community Colleges. One section of that Update is devoted to an in-depth examination of a particular aspect of the college's curriculum. This year, the area under consideration is Reading. The data used to examine Reading is being taken from the information contained in Accountability Measure 4 Part 1. The 1997 reading display indicates a difference of about nine percentage points in the exit rate of white and black students

and a smaller difference of seven percentage points in the rates of whites and Hispanics. While the gaps have been narrowing over the past three years, there is still concern within the system that the rates have not yet attained parity.

After examining those data and noticing the difference in exit rates, an initial step in an analysis of the difference would be to determine if students of different ethnic backgrounds are entering the College Preparatory Program at the same level. Another way of phrasing this is whether the average scores obtained on the entry level placement test by the different ethnic groups are approximately the same. If these average scores vary by large amounts, then unequal exit rates would be anticipated.

Method

In order to conduct this comparison, the average College Placement Test (CPT) score of all 1996-97 first-time-in-college students was calculated. The CPT was chosen since that test represented the majority of all entry level placement tests recorded for the 1996-97 reporting year. This same average was also calculated for each major ethnic group at each college. Even though the Equity Update is limited to Reading, it was decided to include all three areas of the CPT in this analysis.

Results

The attached tables show the average scores for each of the three sections of the CPT - reading, writing and mathematics. In addition, the next to last column shows the range of the average scores obtained among the major ethnic groups - black, white and Hispanic. The final column is the range obtained across all the ethnic groups.

The system level ranges for Reading were the largest for both types. The restricted range

was 7.2 points while the total range was 9.0 points. Among all the groups, Asians had the lowest average score, with blacks next in line. Hispanics and Indians were tied for the next spot with whites obtaining the highest average.

This same pattern was repeated for writing. Asians again had the lowest average, blacks next, then Indians, Hispanics and finally whites with the highest. However, the restricted range for writing was less than that of Reading at 5.5 points. The full range was also less at 8.3 points.

Mathematics presented a very different picture with a restricted range of only 1.5 points and a full range of only 2.6 points. Blacks and Indians were at the low end of these scores with whites next, then Hispanics and finally Asians at the top.

Conclusions

The differences among the various ethnic groups on average CPT score appear to be large enough for Reading and Writing to provide a partial explanation for the differences in exit rates. However, the mathematics section appears to be basically the same, suggesting that there are also other factors involved. Potential factors, based upon other research studies, would include such things as family obligations, employment, financial aid and full-time part-time status. Additional analyses need to be done in an effort to determine the effects and interactions of these types of factors.

References

SBCC (August 1997). "Accountability Draft Reports" Bureau of Research and Information Systems, Division of Community Colleges, DOE.

Division of Community Colleges
Office of Educational Effectiveness and Research

Median Scores for 1996-97 FTIC Students Failing the CPT
By Ethnicity
Mathematics - Cut Score 51

	Asian		Black		Hispanic		Indian		White		Range	Range
	N	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N	Median	(B,H,W)	Total
Brevard	30	34.0	93	28.0	64	31.5	4	22.5	797	29.0	3.5	11.5
Broward	89	32.0	972	29.0	686	29.0	38	27.5	1397	30.0	1.0	4.5
Central Florida	1	32.0	61	32.0	19	36.0	1	35.0	189	36.0	4.0	4.0
Chipola	1	21.0	42	33.0	2	39.0	2	20.0	59	29.0	10.0	19.0
Edison	6	37.0	84	27.5	74	29.5	3	23.0	634	30.0	2.5	14.0
Florida CC @ Jack	73	35.0	798	30.0	104	31.0	19	33.0	1847	31.0	1.0	5.0
Florida Keys			13	22	17	29	2	24	99	29	7	7
Gulf Coast	3	34.0	45	30.0	12	26.5	4	26.0	333	31.0	4.5	8.0
Hillsborough	20	35.0	194	26.0	196	30.5	10	39.0	560	32.0	6.0	13.0
Indian River	5	37.0	69	31.0	41	31.0	9	25.0	396	30.0	1.0	12.0
Lake City	1	34.0	28	26.0	2	27.5	1	32.0	173	28.0	2.0	8.0
Lake-Sumter	1	33.0	4	26.0	1	36.0			47	29.0	10.0	10.0
Manatee	4	22.5	43	20.0	35	22.0	1	20.0	354	20.0	2.0	2.5
Miami-Dade	79	31.0	1744	28.0	3379	31.0	3	22.0	683	30.0	3.0	9.0
Okaloosa-Walton	25	29.0	77	24.0	24	29.0	5	37.0	485	26.0	5.0	13.0
Palm Beach	17	33.0	245	29.0	181	30.0	4	28.0	720	31.0	2.0	5.0
Pasco-Hernando	5	37.0	32	26.0	17	24.0	7	33.0	419	29.0	5.0	13.0
Pensacola	25	26.0	205	26.0	24	27.0	10	29.5	547	28.0	2.0	3.5
Polk	11	33.0	173	30.0	49	29.0	5	28.0	764	30.0	1.0	5.0
St. Petersburg	44	28.5	263	24.0	93	24.0	12	20.0	1751	26.0	2.0	8.5
Santa Fe	15	39.0	135	29.0	67	31.0	13	30.0	587	30.0	2.0	10.0
Seminole	26	32.5	100	28.0	86	30.5	13	31.0	515	29.0	2.5	4.5
South Florida			14	29.0	17	26.0	2	24.0	109	26.0	3.0	5.0
Tallahassee	2	48.0	405	29.0	25	32.0	5	26.0	485	32.0	3.0	22.0
Valencia	30	36.0	193	34.0	268	34.5	6	38.5	397	37.0	3.0	4.5
System	**513**	**32.0**	**6032**	**29.0**	**5484**	**31.0**	**179**	**29.0**	**14356**	**29.0**	**2.0**	**3.0**

Note: Colleges with less than 50 FTIC students reported as taking the CPT in 1996-97 have not been displayed. However, systems totals include all institutions.

Division of Community Colleges
Office of Educational Effectiveness and Research

Median Scores for 1996-97 FTIC Students Failing the CPT
By Ethnicity
Reading - Cut Score 72

	Asian		Black		Hispanic		Indian		White		Range	Range
	N	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N	Median	(B,H,W)	Total
Brevard	49	39.0	70	56.0	46	53.0	2	55.0	324	60.0	7.0	21.0
Broward	85	53.0	744	54.0	415	58.0	19	50.0	564	60.0	6.0	10.0
Central Florida	8	33.0	65	55.0	24	56.0	2	64.5	163	62.0	7.0	31.5
Chipola	1	68.0	36	49.0	3	56.0	2	55.0	43	60.0	11.0	19.0
Edison	5	50.0	60	49.5	51	53.0			232	62.0	12.5	12.5
Florida CC @ Jack	57	62.0	598	55.5	56	60.0	7	55.0	701	62.0	6.5	7.0
Florida Keys			12	54.5	9	56.0	1	68.0	42	62.0	7.5	13.5
Gulf Coast	3	38.0	46	58.5	5	56.0	2	67.5	123	63.0	7.0	29.5
Hillsborough	29	46.0	160	53.0	134	56.0			197	60.0	7.0	14.0
Indian River	2	31.0	56	56.0	30	56.0	4	56.5	165	58.0	2.0	27.0
Lake City	1	31.0	26	51.0	2	64.5	1	43.0	66	60.5	13.5	33.5
Lake-Sumter	3	42.0	14	54.5	6	52.0			67	63.0	11.0	21.0
Manatee	7	34.0	34	46.0	17	42.0			164	60.0	18.0	26.0
Miami-Dade	85	51.0	1579	51.0	2508	57.0	2	63.0	305	58.0	7.0	12.0
Okaloosa-Walton	21	43.0	45	49.0	16	58.0			196	60.0	11.0	17.0
Palm Beach	40	45.0	237	47.0	125	57.0	1	66.0	281	61.0	14.0	21.0
Pasco-Hernando	5	40.0	23	53.0	13	56.0	4	49.0	165	64.0	11.0	24.0
Pensacola	29	43.0	116	54.0	12	59.5	3	49.0	145	61.0	7.0	18.0
Polk	12	50.0	134	52.0	28	61.0	2	45.5	247	63.0	11.0	17.5
St. Petersburg	55	49.0	201	54.0	62	53.0	8	56.0	815	60.0	7.0	11.0
Santa Fe	27	39.0	118	56.0	60	48.5	10	55.0	226	61.5	13.0	22.5
Seminole	45	49.0	78	51.5	66	58.0	4	71.0	201	62.0	10.5	22.0
South Florida			13	64.0	11	56.0	1	43.0	53	64.0	8.0	21.0
Tallahassee	10	42.5	363	49.0	22	49.0	3	49.0	284	62.0	13.0	19.5
Valencia	83	57.0	215	56.0	285	60.0	3	60.0	337	61.0	5.0	5.0
System	**663**	**50.0**	**5069**	**53.0**	**4012**	**57.0**	**81**	**56.0**	**6140**	**61.0**	**8.0**	**11.0**

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Division of Community Colleges
Office of Educational Effectiveness and Research

Median Scores for 1996-97 FTIC Students Failing the CPT
By Ethnicity
Writing - Cut Score 78

	Asian		Black		Hispanic		Indian		White		Range	Range
	N	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N	Median	N	Median	(B,H,W)	Total
Brevard	49	49.0	64	55.5	50	60.0	2	60.5	356	65.0	9.5	16.0
Broward	66	57.0	636	61.0	350	64.0	23	55.0	613	65.0	4.0	10.0
Central Florida	8	38.5	57	59.0	20	55.5	1	74.0	189	68.0	12.5	35.5
Chipola	1	49.0	35	53.0	2	60.5	2	66.5	42	69.0	16.0	20.0
Edison	4	64.5	55	57.0	48	57.0	1	74.0	268	65.5	8.5	17.0
Florida CC @ Jack	40	59.0	462	61.0	48	56.0	8	59.0	692	64.0	8.0	8.0
Florida Keys			13	57.0	9	53.0	1	66.0	49	61.0	8.0	13.0
Gulf Coast	4	63.0	44	58.0	6	65.5	1	49.0	134	68.5	10.5	19.5
Hillsborough	23	45.0	144	54.0	137	61.0	1	70.0	223	61.0	7.0	25.0
Indian River	5	73.0	54	61.5	30	60.5	2	41.5	179	64.0	3.5	31.5
Lake City	1	33.0	25	57.0	1	71.0	1	48.0	83	64.0	14.0	38.0
Lake-Sumter	2	32.5	11	53.0	5	55.0			77	66.0	13.0	33.5
Manatee	7	57.0	32	51.0	20	64.0			169	64.0	13.0	13.0
Miami-Dade	87	54.0	1459	56.0	2527	61.0	2	71.5	323	64.0	8.0	17.5
Okaloosa-Walton	23	49.0	51	57.0	19	57.0	1	70.0	234	66.0	9.0	21.0
Palm Beach	37	47.0	216	50.0	126	58.5	2	51.5	296	65.0	15.0	18.0
Pasco-Hernando	7	61.0	28	53.0	10	61.0	5	41.0	186	61.0	8.0	20.0
Pensacola	31	47.0	116	59.0	10	67.0	6	60.5	187	64.0	8.0	20.0
Polk	13	66.0	112	60.5	26	64.0	3	63.0	306	66.0	5.5	5.5
St. Petersburg	49	49.0	178	57.0	67	61.0	11	61.0	865	61.0	4.0	12.0
Santa Fe	29	47.0	101	61.0	63	43.0	11	31.0	261	65.0	22.0	34.0
Seminole	40	57.0	70	61.5	71	62.0	5	70.0	233	64.0	2.5	13.0
South Florida			13	61.0	11	57.0	1	24.0	59	66.0	9.0	42.0
Tallahassee	12	63.5	341	53.0	28	55.0	2	51.5	296	61.0	8.0	12.0
Valencia	68	58.0	199	60.0	261	64.0	6	66.5	353	64.0	4.0	8.5
System	**607**	**53.0**	**4522**	**57.0**	**3946**	**61.0**	**98**	**60.5**	**6707**	**65.0**	**8.0**	**12.0**

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